



**Lydia Bethea**  
**Captain**  
**United States Navy**

Captain Bethea earned her commission through Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida, as a General Unrestricted Line Officer in August 1994. Following commissioning, she reported to her first tour of duty at Naval Facility, Keflavik, Iceland, where she served as a Watch Operations Officer and earned her Integrated Undersea Surveillance pin. Following completion of this tour, Captain Bethea reported to Helicopter Squadron Light Forty (HSL-40), where she served as Legal Officer, Communications Officer, and Assistant Department Head for the Administration Department. After completing her tour at HSL-40 in Mayport, Florida, Captain Bethea reported to Navy Recruiting District, New Orleans, Louisiana. During this tour, she served as an Officer Recruiter, the Officer Programs Officer, and the Enlisted Programs Officer. This tour marked her transition into the Human Resources Officer Community.



Captain Bethea then reported to the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, where she earned a Master's degree in Foreign Affairs and Strategic Planning. Upon graduation, she reported to Navy Personnel Command, in Millington, Tennessee, where she served as Deputy of Operations for the Student Quota Management Office. In June 2007, Captain Bethea reported to Navy Recruiting Command as the Director of the Marketing and Advertising Plans Division. In July 2010, she assumed command of the Military Entrance Processing Station, Spokane, Washington. In August 2011, she assumed command as the 5th Battalion Commander, reporting directly to the Western Sector Commander for Military Entrance Processing Stations in the states of Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

In September 2012, Captain Bethea reported to Training Support Center, Great Lakes, where she served as Executive Officer until August 2014. In September 2014, she reported onboard to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy Manpower and Reserve Affairs as the Deputy Director for Military Personnel Matters in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Military Manpower and Personnel. In November 2016, Captain Bethea reported to the Office of Naval Intelligence, Washington, DC where she served as the Director of Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (N1). Captain Bethea reported in May 2018 as Commanding Officer, Office of Military Support, Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

Captain Bethea earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Morris College and a Master of Arts degree in Human Resources Management from Webster University. She is certified by the Human Resources Certification Institute as a Professional in Human Resources and is designated as a Joint Qualified Officer. Her awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), the Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), the Navy Achievement Medal (two awards), as well as several unit and service awards.